

# BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2a  
October 6, 2011

## Meeting

RIDE

Thursday, September 1, 2011 - 4:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

**Attending:** George Caruolo (chairman), Lorne Adrain, Carolina Bernal, Colleen Callahan, Robert Carothers, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Betsy Shimberg

**Absent:** Mat Santos

The meeting convened at 4:23 p.m.

Chairman Caruolo apologized for the late start of the meeting, noting that he moved the meeting to the Paff Auditorium to accommodate the public. He noted that Regent Santos would not be joining the meeting that afternoon because he was on National Guard duty responding to Hurricane Irene.

### Approval of Agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Callahan and seconded by Regent Guida it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the

July 7, 2011 – Board of Regents Meeting;  
July 21, 2011 – Board of Regents Meeting; and  
August 9, 2011 – Board of Regents Work Session.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Gist gave an update on:

#### **Race to the Top:**

A week ago we celebrated the first anniversary of Race to the Top, with a news conference at the Rhode Island Foundation and a small celebration at RIDE for the RIDE Team.

At the news conference, we received words of support from Senate President Paiva Weed and from Speaker Fox, as well as from our partners at the Rhode Island Foundation.

Thank you, Chairman Caruolo, for speaking on behalf of the Regents and for your words of inspiration

We updated the Race to the Top Steering Committee on Tuesday as to our current status and the hard work ahead of us. I have provided you with a copy of our Year One Progress Update, which we shared with the Steering Committee.

We are proud of our accomplishments in Year One, and we look forward to the challenges of Year Two, including implementation of the evaluation system, start-up of induction programs for beginning teachers, advancing the district curriculum work in mathematics and English in line with the Common Core, and developing opportunities in virtual learning for students.

As you know, we were pleased to received approval for two amendments to our Race to the Top plan, which will keep us on track to meet the timelines, goals, and objectives of the grant.

### **Race to the Top early-learning challenge application:**

The Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge application was released on Wednesday, August 24. It is due on October 19.

If successful, Rhode Island could receive \$50 million to support early learning for children from birth to age 5.

### **Central Falls negotiations:**

Contract negotiations are continuing, with RIDE participation

Central Falls faces a rare opportunity to show the world that students, teachers, and school leaders can work together to advance student achievement, no matter how bitter the history or how severe the challenges.

### **Public Remarks**

Chairman Caruolo moved public remarks to the last item on the agenda

### **Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Caruolo deferred Chairman's Remarks.

### **Discussion Items**

Chairman Caruolo noted that there were no discussion items on the agenda.

### **APPROVAL ITEMS:**

#### **Approval of regulations regarding certification of educators for the purpose of public hearing:**

Commissioner Gist noted that:

The certification regulations are one of our critical strategies for ensuring educator excellence in all Rhode Island schools.

These regulations are updated so that the requirements and procedures that govern educator certification in Rhode Island consolidate all Regents regulations related to educator certification and align with the processes and procedures that will ensure that we have excellent educators in every district, school, and classroom.

Commissioner Gist recommended that the Regents approve the revised certification regulations for public hearing.

Regent Callahan requested that the Board place certification as a single item on an agenda for a future Work Session. She also asked the Commissioner to provide the current status of the “student-learning formula:” to be used to calculate teacher effectiveness. She asked for assurances that CPAB will be involved in the revision of certification regulations and that RIDE will use multiple measures to evaluate teachers.

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Callahan it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve, for the purpose of public hearing, the Board of Regents Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island.
	Vote:	8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:
	YEAS:	G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg
	NAYS:	0

#### **Approval of the Capital Budget**

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Forbes it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Capital Budget, as presented.
	Vote:	8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:
	YEAS:	G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg
	NAYS:	0

#### **Approval of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy**

Prior to a vote taking place, Chairman Caruolo read into the record a letter to the Board from Governor Lincoln D. Chafee, in which the Governor asked the Regents to “consider the views of Cranston residents, parents, and educators when weighing whether to approved the [Achievement First] application” and “to examine the proposed financial plan to determine whether the mayoral academy is financially sustainable.” The Governor also wrote that “if the current proposal is turned down, I will be requesting Commissioner Gist and the staff at RIDE to immediately begin discussions with Providence’s elected leadership, school board, teachers, and school administrators to determine the feasibility of a mayoral academy in Providence which would draw a student population from some combination of communities.”

Commissioner Gist noted that the discussion of the Achievement First application has allowed the Regents to respond to public feedback and to do the right thing for students. She said she looks forward to bringing a new application from Achievement First to the Regents “as soon as we can pull that together.”

The Regents discussed whether to amend, table, or reject the Achievement First application. Regent Callahan noted that Achievement First would be able to apply for a charter in another venue in Rhode Island.

On a motion duly made by Regent Callahan and seconded by Regent Carothers, it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education reject the application for preliminary approval for the Achievement First Mayoral Academies toward a 2012-13 school-year opening.
	Vote:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida,
	NAYS:	B. Shimberg

Regent Shimberg moved that the Board of Regents direct the Commissioner to bring Achievement First to Rhode Island to establish a mayoral academy charter school in Providence, drawing from multiple communities, including Cranston, East Providence, and North Providence. Regent Adrain seconded the motion.

Chairman Caruolo said the motion was premature.

Regent Shimberg amended her motion to state that the Regents ask the Commissioner to examine the feasibility of bringing Achievement First to Rhode Island to establish a mayoral academy charter school in Providence, drawing from multiple communities, including Cranston, East Providence, and North Providence. Regent Adrain seconded amended motion.

Regent Carothers said that the Board need not give the Commissioner directions. Chairman Caruolo suggested that Regent Shimberg withdraw the motion. Regent Shimberg noted that “we have to follow the Governor’s letter,” which requested the Commissioner examine the feasibility of bringing a mayoral academy to Providence, “and I would like to follow the Governor’s direction,” she added.

Regent Carothers objected to the notion that the Board must support the Governor’s request, and he said he would oppose the motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

On a motion duly made by Regent Adrain and seconded by Regent Callahan it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education convene in executive session to discuss a personnel matter: Commissioner's evaluation.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

The Board of Regents went into recess to convene an executive session at 5:11 p.m.

The Board of Regents returned to public session at 5:36 p.m. Chairman Caruolo reported that no votes were taken in executive session.

### **Public Remarks**

The Board heard public remarks on possibility of an Achievement First Mayoral Academy in Providence, on the process of review and approval of the application for an Achievement First Mayoral Academy in Cranston, and on the need discussions between the charter applicant and the community as part of the process of planning and approval for new charter applications.

On a motion duly made by Regent Carothers and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.